

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has granted the instant application the priority date of May 5, 1999 per the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006.

In the Office Action of March 7, 2006 the Examiner rejected Claims 29-33 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In addition, claims 28 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claim 1 and claim 5 were allowed.

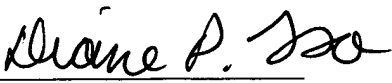
By preliminary amendment, Applicants herewith cancel claims 28-33. Claims 1 and 5 are currently pending. Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

As the required filing fee was submitted with the previous improper Request for Continued Examination dated May 1, 2006, it is believed that no additional filing fee is required. If, however, an additional fee is required, please charge the same to Deposit Account 50-3464.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2006

By 
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